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June 11, 1998

JUN 15 1998

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to offer my comments on the CALFED Bay Delta Program's Phase II Interim Report. As a resident of northern California for nearly 40 years, I appreciate the excellent water supply system and, specifically, the exceptional quality of water available to me. I understand the need to provide water to other regions of the state and I am concerned about the potential health effects of bromine/purification byproducts. I also recognize the need to protect the environmental and economic resources of the Northstate and the rights of priority water users and I represent many citizens of the region who are supportive of developing a fair and sound process for water supply and use, so long as the wellbeing of the areas of origin will not be sacrificed to excessive export and exploitation of the resource. I will touch briefly on issues that directly affect my home region but welcome the opportunity for more detailed discussions of each of these items.

Water quality and supply can be positively impacted by prudent and effective management of the watersheds. During the past hundred years, fire suppression has resulted in the development of severely over-vegetated watershed areas which causes an overall reduction in water runoff due to increased evapo-transpiration and consequently, reduced water delivered to the reservoirs, impacting supply. This over-stocking also has created the potential for catastrophic wildfire...the ramifications of which should not be ignored: Catastrophic fire = greater potential for flooding and high levels of erosion = increased turbidity = a reduction in water quality and accelerated sediment filling of reservoirs = lower storage availability. **Watersheds should be managed with thinning and with determined reintroduction of prescribed burning for biomass reduction.** Additionally, the California timber industry should be encouraged to improve forest health with the opportunity to use public land for well-planned, environmentally sound timber harvest, which would have the added benefits of providing economic diversity and stability to rural counties and a clean, renewable resource for the country. I support the strategies for forest health as outlined in the Quincy Library Group Legislation of 1997. All of these things would positively impact water quality, in the long run.

Another valuable tool for water storage is the restoration of wetlands and meadows, which would result in more stable water production featuring optimum water quality and low water temperatures, which will be a direct benefit to several species currently protected or

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candidates for ESA listing.

Funding for projects has been difficult for rural counties to obtain, possibly because we lack the manpower and tenacity to pursue the CVPIA and CALFED grants on a full-time basis. **Because the overall environmental health of the watersheds has such a profound impact on the water quality for the entire CVP, it is prudent that the areas of origin receive the necessary project funds.** One idea worth consideration is the development of block grants to be awarded to the rural counties and disbursed by local agencies that could best decide how the money should be used.

One last comment regarding the watersheds: Why isn't Trinity County included in the watershed plan? It is illogical to exclude them because they are a significant contributor to the water in the CVP.

Even with management methods operating at their optimum effectiveness, I believe that **there is still going to be a need for additional off-stream facilities to provide storage** for use that is especially critical during drought cycles. The people of the Northstate want to be sure that storage will be built in the central and southern sections of the state as well as the north, and we want to be sure that Congressional funding for such projects is **guaranteed** before final approval of the preferred alternative is given and that funding for storage is **appropriated** before the construction of any new conveyance system.

Protection of area of origin water rights must be upheld as well as the safeguarding of groundwater, especially in the case of 'in lieu' banking, which has the potential to contaminate existing aquifers during recharge by surface waters. Conjunctive use works reasonably well in localized areas but should not become a common or significant factor in large water transfer or long-term use.

The rights of northern California farmers and small business persons should be protected. Northern Californians are strongly opposed both philosophically and economically to the fallowing or retirement of agricultural land to reap water that will be used in the southern half of the state. I encourage the continuing development of water conservation and reclamation/recycling activities and products. I advocate the use of water metering for all uses and tiered pricing strategies that discourage wasteful practices, especially in urban use. Regarding small businesses: Clean Water Act regulations that are strongly affecting local businesses seem excessive. From my viewpoint, the water quality problems in the Delta stem from the presence of bromine from the seawater and organics from the Delta itself, not from source area businesses, in general. Although non-point source pollution is a concern, it is not a major contributor originating in this region and resulting in poor health of the Delta.


Regarding mitigation for ESA species: The proposed fish screens to be used at the intakes at Hood and at other locations rely on the best science available at this time. However, this is nowhere near a guarantee of effectiveness. Since one of the primary objectives of this entire process has been the restoration of fish populations, it seems too risky to use an "adapt as you go" strategy for fisheries protection. Also, **I would like to encourage the funding agencies to strongly support the habitat restoration activities proposed and on-going for Lower Clear Creek and Battle Creek**, so that superior spawning habitat can become available for fall- and winter-run Chinook and Steelhead.

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One last point is probably the most difficult to strategize and implement... **growth in all regions of the state must be well-planned and limited** so that overtaxing of the physical environment can be avoided. Here in the north state the rural lifestyle is highly prized and citizens greatly appreciate the "small town" feeling. We reject unbridled growth or excessive exploitation of our resources. We ask that the citizens of all of California respect that we are willing to share our exceptional water resources for the greater good of the State but we cannot allow these resources to be obtained at the expense of the Northstate economic or environmental health.

Sincerely,


Janet Bailey
Shasta County Resident

Cc: Johannasen, Herger, Dickerson

WATER RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO

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